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Project Update

for the

Highway 55 Project

from Rockford to Plymouth

August 2007

Future Design Concept Recommended

Work has continued on the design concept for future expansion of Highway 55 from Plymouth to Rockford (County Road 61 just east of I-494 to the western Hennepin County limit at the Crow River). This project is not in Mn/DOT's 20-year plan, but it is important to plan to preserve right of way now for expansion in the future.

A Public Information Open House to provide information and hear public comment on development of the design concept for Highway 55 from Plymouth to Rockford was held on Tuesday, January 30, 2007 at the Hennepin County Public Works Facility, Medina, Minnesota. Materials shown at the Open House are available on the project website: (<http://projects.dot.state.mn.us/srf/055/>)

Over 70 people attended the information meeting. Representatives from Hennepin County, Mn/DOT and SRF Consulting Group, Inc. were present to explain the process, including status of the design concept, and answer questions. Meeting attendees were encouraged to submit written comments during the meeting or later by mail or email. Most comments received expressed concern about right of way acquisition and property access.

Since the January 2007 open house, the design concept has been further developed. The design concept that is expected to be presented and evaluated in an Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheet was reviewed by the Highway 55 Corridor Coalition in June and by the City Councils of the five corridor cities (Plymouth, Medina, Corcoran, Greenfield, Rockford) in July.

The proposed design concept is viewable at the project website: (<http://projects.dot.state.mn.us/srf/055/>).

Project Background

Hennepin County and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) are partnering to prepare an Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EA/EAW) for corridor preservation for the future expansion of Highway 55 from Plymouth to Rockford. Improvements to Highway 55 are needed to

- 1) relieve congestion on Highway 55
- 2) provide safer access to Highway 55 from the local roadway networks
- 3) improve travel to and from the growing western communities
- 4) provide information for good community planning as the region develops

The current work will result in a design concept that will be used to protect right of way through the “official mapping” process and other community planning tools. The EA/EAW will assess the potential impacts of the project, help obtain federal funding for right of way preservation, and allow implementation of smaller improvements, consistent with the design concept, as funding becomes available.

See Mn/DOT project Web site for more details:

<http://projects.dot.state.mn.us/srf/055/>.

Schedule

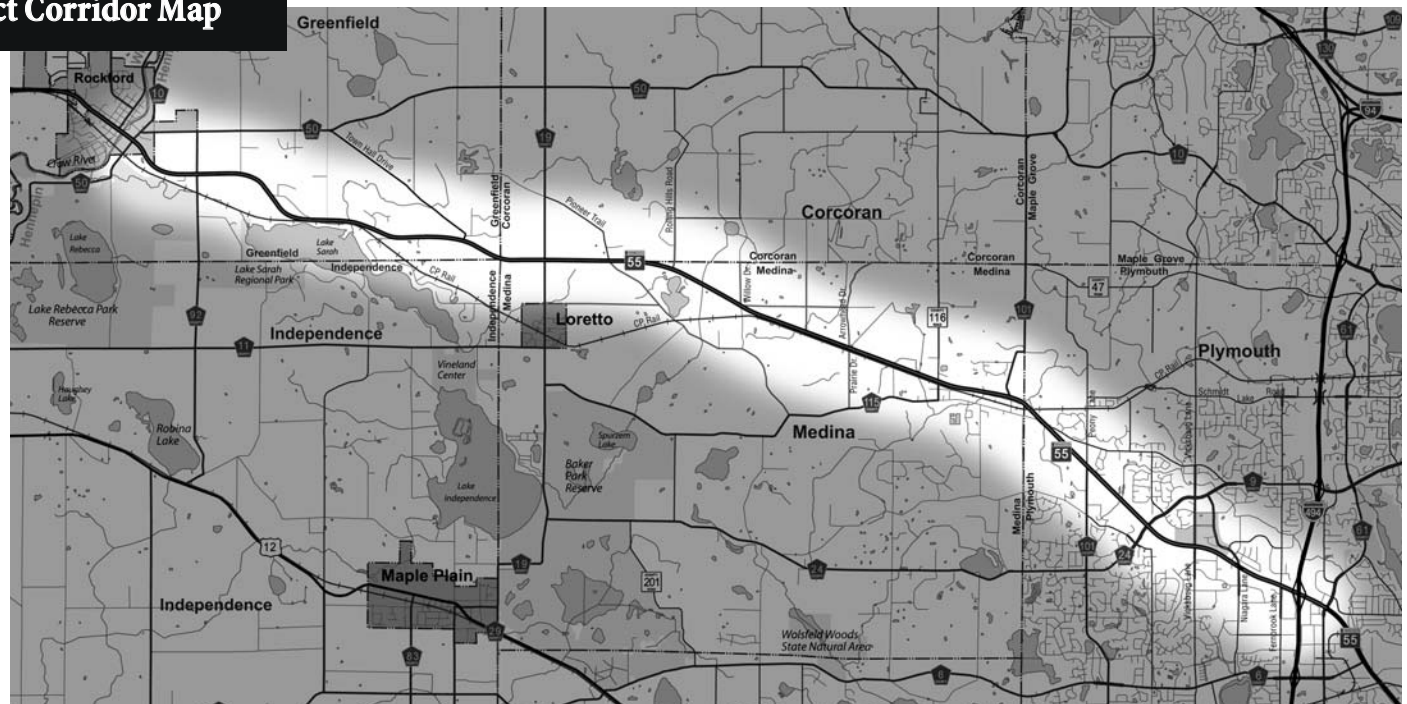
EA/EAW publication	Late 2007
Public Hearing on EA/EAW	Late 2007

Right of way preservation activities including the official mapping process will begin following the conclusion of the environmental process. Actual right of way acquisition will follow when funding is available. The construction of the project is not currently programmed by Mn/DOT and will not occur until funding can be obtained.

Quick Look at Project Details:

- Expanded from 2 lanes to 4 lanes from Rockford to County Road 116 (Pinto Drive)
- Transition to a 4-lane hybrid concept between County Road 116 and the I-494 area

Highway 55 Project Corridor Map



If you have questions or comments, please contact
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